

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OSLO 05268 251441Z

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SUBJ: NATO SUPPORT PROGRAMMING

POST NOW WRAPPING UP TWO MONTHS INTENSE NATO SUPPORT PROGRAMMING, WHICH FAR EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS IN REACHING NORWEGIAN AUDIENCES WITH CLEAR, DOUBLE-EDGED MESSAGE THAT NATO STRONGLY COMMITTED NORWEGIAN DEFENSE AND SPECIFICALLY THAT U.S. KEENLY AWARE ITS MILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES ON NORTHERN FLANK.

THRUST OF PROGRAMMING HAS BEEN TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE TWELVE U.S. NAVY SHIP VISITS AND OPERATIONS OFF NORWEGIAN COAST, AS WELL AS CARRY OUT REGULAR NATO PARLIAMENTARIAN TOUR AND PARTICIPATION NATO SEMINAR. USIS/USNATO ASSISTED FUNDING ALL MAJOR PROJECTS.

PROGRAMMING PERIOD BEGAN WITH POST-ARRANGED JOURNALIST VISIT ABOARD SHIPS STANDING NAVAL FORCE ATLANTIC OPERATING OFF NORTH NORWAY (SEE OSLO 4062). NEXT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OSLO 05268 251441Z

CAME TROMSO NATO SEMINAR WHICH DREW 20 NORTH

NORWEGIAN LEADERS TO HEAR SPEAKERS, INCLUDING DIRECTOR OF STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE NATO & ATLANTIC SECURITY AFFAIRS, EMPHASIZE NEED FOR ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY AND CONTINUED STRONG DEFENSE (SEE OSLO FM NO. 5).

THIS FOLLOWED BY HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT FIVE LEADING NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO BRUSSELS, AFSOUTH AND SIXTH FLEET AIRCRAFT CARRIER (OSLO 435), WHICH BEGAN SAME DAY AS ARRIVAL NUCLEAR-POWERED USS CALIFORNIA FOR PORT VISIT OSLO, PARLIAMENTARIANS HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS KEY ISSUES WITH TOP ALLIANCE LEADERS AND GAIN INSIGHTS WHICH SHOULD HELP THEM IN DAY-TO-DAY PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS. POST-ARRANGED PRESS CONFERENCE ABOARD USS CALIFORNIA RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE NEWS COVERAGE AND HELPED PROMOTE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE NUCLEAR SHIP VISITS TO NORWAY. USS ALBANY ARRIVED OSLO DAY CALIFORNIA DEPARTED. POST PRESS CONFERENCE GAVE COMSTRIKFLTANT OPPORTUNITY STRESS NATO & U.S. COMMITMENT TO NORTHERN FLANK DEFENSE, AND MINOR FUSS OVER POSSIBILITY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOARD ALBANY HAPPILY RESULTED IN SIGNIFICANT MEDIA COMMENT STRESSING IMPORTANCE U.S. READINESS MEET ANY CRISIS.

IN FOLLOWING WEEKS, POST EFFORTS--AND OFFICERS--FANNED OUT FROM OSLO TO CAPITALIZE ON VISITS SOUTHERN, WESTERN NORWEGIAN PORTS BY U.S. NAVY SHIPS CONGREGATED FOR NATO'S ANNUAL "OCEAN SAFARI" EXERCISE. IN KRISTIANSAND, ARENDAL, STAVANGER, BERGEN AND AALESUND, POST ARRANGED PRESS CONFERENCES FOR LOCAL MEDIA AND, IN NEW PROGRAM TWIST, CO-HOSTED DINNERS ON BOARD FOR LOCAL POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO NOT NORMALLY INVOLVED SHIP VISITS.

SINCE NAVAL VISITS RATHER ROUTINE MOST NORWEGIAN PORTS, POST EXPLOITED EVERY ANGLE ASSURE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE PUBLICITY, INCLUDING ENCOURAGING KRISTIANSAND LABOR DAILY PUT YOUNG U.S. NAVAL OFFICER WITH NORWEGIAN BACKGROUND IN TOUCH WITH RELATIVES, RESULTING IN STORY COVERING MOST PAGE ONE; STIMULATING STAVANGER MEDIA PLAY UP NORWEGIAN EMIGRATION SESQUICENTENNIAL ANGLE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 OSLO 05268 251441Z

OF VISIT USS PAUL, WHOSE SKIPPER HAS ANCESTORS FROM AREA; SPARKING INTEREST BERGEN & OSLO MEDIA IN SUBMARINE RECOVERY VESSEL WHICH IN 1973 HELPED SEARCH FOR TWO NORWEGIAN SHIPS LOST OFF U.S. EAST COAST; AND ASSURING HEAVY COVERAGE AALESUND LABOR DAILY BY PROMPTING SKIPPER USS SHERMAN FOCUS ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREW MEMBERS, WHICH PRODUCED HEADLINE "BOTH NAVAL VESSEL & FLOATING UNIVERSITY".

FINAL MAJOR EFFORT WAS SENDING SIX REPORTERS LEADING NORWEGIAN MEDIA FOR CARRIER-ARREST LANDING ABOARD USS INDEPENDENCE DURING ITS PARTICIPATION "OCEAN SAFARI" IN NORWEGIAN SEA. TRIP STIMULATED UNUSUALLY HEAVY AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE THIS ANNUAL EXERCISE IN ALL MAJOR DAILIES IN OSLO, BERGEN & TRONDHEIM, AS WELL AS IN SEVERAL SMALLER PAPERS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY THAT PICKED UP STORIES BY NORWEGIAN NEWS AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE ON TRIP. (OSLO 5239).

IMMEDIATE AND EASILY MEASURABLE RESULT THIS INTENSE NATO PROGRAMMING IS NEARLY 3,000 COLUMN INCHES NEWS-PAPER COVERAGE. THOUGH NO FURTHER SHIP VISITS NEAR FUTURE, POST NOW PLANNING REGULAR SPRING NATO TOURS AND PARTICIPATION WITH NORWEGIAN ATLANTIC COMMITTEE IN ANNUAL LEANGKOLLEN NATO SEMINAR EARLY FEBRUARY. NYROP

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